



August 2011

Volume 2 Issue 7

## \$30M aircraft ramp opens at Transit Center



Kyrgyz traditional storytellers and singers improvise a song at the conclusion of the large aircraft ramp dedication ceremony at the Transit Center at Manas June 23.



Distinguished guests cut a ribbon symbolizing the opening of the large aircraft ramp during a dedication ceremony at the Transit Center at Manas June 23.

## Kyrgyz Soccer Federation staff defeats Transit Center



Master Sgt. Leonard Raduske dives for the ball to prevent a goal during a soccer match in Bishkek. Airmen from the Transit Center at Manas traveled to Bishkek to play the Kyrgyz Soccer Federation staff.



Airmen from the Transit Center at Manas and the Kyrgyz Soccer Federation pose for a photo after a soccer match in Bishkek July 9. Players from the Kyrgyz Soccer Federation staff narrowly defeated the Transit Center team with a 5-4 victory. The game was the fourth match between the two groups -- it was also the fourth victory for the Kyrgyz team.





Begai (Becky) Tashanalieva, 376th Security Forces Squadron translator, stands with six of the nine Red River Orphanage children who received surgeries paid for by the 376th SFS "Cops for Kids" organization. Five children underwent corrective eye surgery, three had cleft-lip operations and one had heart repair.

## 'Cops for Kids' make difference at orphanage

Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Richardson is a parent through and through. However, deploying here from Jackson, Miss., meant the 376th Security Forces Squadron superintendent would spend six months away from his two teenagers.

But his time at the Transit Center showed him he didn't have to be related to have his heart touched by children. In February, Richardson's security forces defenders created a volunteer organization called "Cops for Kids." Since then, it's been making a huge difference in the lives of the children at the Krasnaya Rechka (Red River) Orphanage.

In the six months since Cops for Kids was created, the group has paid for nine operations - one child needed heart surgery, five underwent corrective eye procedures and three received cleft-lip operations. In addition to the cost of the surgeries, Cops for Kids hired nurses to stay with the children in the hospital, clothes to wear, food to eat, and even plates and cups from which they ate and drank.

To keep the relationship going, Richardson, who redeploys soon, led a group of defenders to the orphanage about a week after the surgeries to check up on the children he's grown to love so much.



**Right top:** Kyrgyz children and defenders from the 376th Security Forces Squadron flex their muscles during a visit to the Red River Orphanage.

**Right bottom:** Defenders from the 376th Security Forces Squadron deliver toys and clothes to Kyrgyz children at the Red River Orphanage.





## Americans team up to create cultural awareness

Americans from the U.S. Embassy, Peace Corps and Transit Center at Manas teamed together to share their culture with residents of Kant during an "American Corner" information fair July 12.

The group spent the afternoon playing typical American games like bobbing for apples and three-legged races. In addition, they answered any questions the residents had about U.S. culture and language.

"The purpose of this fair is to advertise the American Corner and promote greater participation from the local population," said Anna Laird, Peace Corps volunteer. "American Corners are throughout the country."

This particular American Corner is a resource center located mere blocks away from the community park where the information fair was held. The Kant American Corner houses a library with Russian and English books, a computer lab, video club, an area to socialize and play games, and is a place where students can improve their English.



**Above left:** A group of women examine books and magazines about American culture during an "American Corner" cultural event hosted by the Peace Corps and U.S. Embassy in Kant July 12.

**Above right:** Children run a three-legged race during an "American Corner" cultural event hosted by the Peace Corps and U.S. Embassy. **Right middle:** Senior Airman Kelly Tims and a Kyrgyz boy play catch with a water balloon during an "American Corner" cultural event hosted by the Peace Corps and U.S. Embassy in Kant July 12.

**Right:** A child bobs for apples during an "American Corner" cultural event hosted by the Peace Corps and U.S. Embassy.

**Left:** Master Sgt. Clay Gobin ties a balloon to a child's ankle for the balloon pop game during an "American Corner" cultural event hosted by the Peace Corps and U.S. Embassy in Kant July 12.





A child at Belovodskiy Orphanage holds the microphone as Tech. Sgt. Lane McCray sings July 6.

## ‘Blue Hawk’ shares music with children



Above: A teenager at the Belovodskiy Orphanage belts out a song as members of “Blue Hawk” play backup music July 6. The Air Forces Central Command Band Blue Hawk is composed of U.S. Air Force Guardsmen assigned to Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas. Left: Airmen from the Air Forces Central Command Band “Blue Hawk” spent their afternoon bringing smiles to the faces of children at the Bishkek Children’s Cancer Center July 4.



Right: The band "Blue Hawk" performs in front of the State Museum of History in Bishkek July 2.

Below: Airmen in the band "Blue Hawk" perform at the American Embassy's community Fourth of July celebration here July 2.

Bottom left: Airmen with the band "Blue Hawk" pose for a photo before performing in Bishkek July 2.



## 'Blue Hawk' brings Independence Day spirit to Kyrgyzstan capital

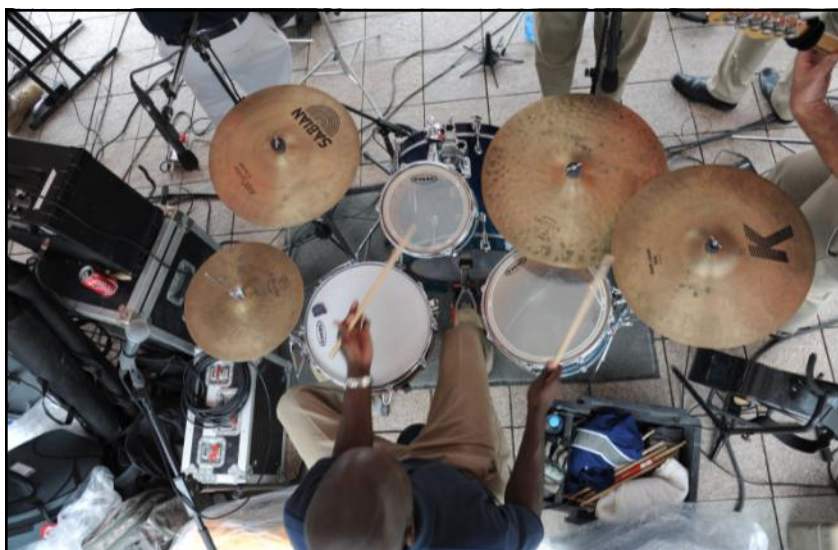
The fact that no firework displays lit the Kyrgyzstan sky marking the 235th birthday of America doesn't mean the United States citizens here didn't celebrate the event.

The current Air Forces Central Band "Blue Hawk" spent the weekend leading up to Independence Day, and the holiday, performing for Americans and Kyrgyz citizens at the American Embassy, the Transit Center, in the nation's capital Bishkek and a cancer center.



Right: Tech. Sgts. Lane McCray and Marcelo Perez perform at the American Embassy's official Fourth of July celebration July 1.

Bottom right: Staff Sgt. Curtis Simmons performs with the band "Blue Hawk" for an audience of Kyrgyz and American citizens in front of the State Museum of History July 2.





## Transit Center at Manas economic impact as of July 26, 2011

<b>Direct Expenditures</b>	<b>FY08 Actual</b>	<b>FY09 Actual</b>	<b>FY10 Actual</b>	<b>FY11 YTD</b>
Payments to Kyrgyz Govt - Dip Note	\$17,400,000	\$26,620,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000
Payments to Manas International Airport	\$22,426,354	\$22,999,039		
Lease, Passes, and Utilities			\$4,029,091	\$4,348,698
Aircraft Landing, Parking, Service Fees			\$21,157,571	\$13,462,039
Contributions to Airport Improvements	\$131,000	\$30,600,000	\$0	\$0
Contributions to Kyrgyz Aeronavigation	\$130,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contract Payments	\$35,351,310	\$24,601,908		
Commodities (Furniture/Sports equip/ parts/supplies)			\$28,214,794	\$14,795,075.00
Construction (Buildings/renovations/ road repairs)			\$5,229,757	\$3,699,927.00
Services (Grounds/refuse/custodial/ vehicle lease)			\$9,345,966	\$8,007,531.00
Leases (non-MIA)	\$83,726	\$81,562	\$66,596	\$105,854
Programmatic Humanitarian Assistance		\$1,700,000	\$2,273,488	\$678,826
<b>Subtotal Direct Expenditures</b>	<b>\$75,522,890</b>	<b>\$106,602,509</b>	<b>\$130,317,263</b>	<b>\$105,097,950</b>
<b>Indirect Expenditures</b>				
Estimated US Military local spending	\$946,000	\$1,037,530	\$1,161,743	\$1,067,934
<b>Subtotal Indirect Expenditures</b>	<b>\$946,000</b>	<b>\$1,037,530</b>	<b>\$1,161,743</b>	<b>\$1,067,934</b>
<b>Total Economic Impact</b>	<b>\$76,468,890</b>	<b>\$107,640,039</b>	<b>\$131,479,006</b>	<b>\$106,165,884</b>



## MABOS hosts field day event for area orphanages

Above: Children fill water guns and bottles during water games at a Manas Area Benefit Outreach Society field day June 24. The Transit Center's MABOS group hosted an afternoon of games and sporting events for 29 children ages 6-12 from the Nizhanchuisk and Belovodskiy Orphanages.

Left: A child sprays a bottle at volunteers during water games at a Manas Area Benefit Outreach Society field day. Field days at the Transit Center provide Air-men who don't get to leave the center a chance to spend time with the children.